

CLAIMS

I/We claim:

1. A method for modeling utilization of healthcare resources in a target period based on a plurality of provider claims from a base period maintained for a member of a healthcare plan, the method comprising:
calculating a burden of illness for the member based on the plurality of provider claims, wherein the burden of illness is a number; and
computing a score for the member based on the burden of illness and at least one explanatory variable.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the provider claims include medical claims and pharmacy claims.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of provider claims include only pharmacy claims.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the provider claims include only medical claims.
5. The method of claim 1 further including, prior to the calculating step, the step of extracting a data set from the plurality of provider claims, the data set including only information, from the base period, from the plurality of provider claims relevant to healthcare utilization during the target period, and further wherein the calculating step is based on the data set.
6. The method of claim 5 further including, after the extracting step, the

step of cleaning the data set to remove correct obviously erroneous information by comparing categories of the data set to acceptable values.

7. The method of claim 5 further including, after the extracting step, the step of placing a plurality of pharmacy codes, representing a prescribed medication, into a plurality of therapeutic pharmacy classes.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the plurality of therapeutic pharmacy classes are GC3 classes.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein the burden of illness number is derived by summing a plurality of weights corresponding to each of the plurality of therapeutic pharmacy classes present for the member.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein the burden of illness number is derived by summing a plurality of weights corresponding to each of the plurality of therapeutic pharmacy classes present for the member and a plurality of weights corresponding to relevant combinations of therapeutic pharmacy classes present for the member.

11. The method of claim 5 further including, after the extracting step, the step of placing a plurality of disease codes from the medical claims, representing diseases treated, into a plurality of disease classes.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the disease classes are CCG classes.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein the disease classes are CCG

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by a predetermined weight factor and summing the products to achieve a single number.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the predetermined weight factor corresponding to one of the groups, representing a medical episode, is adjusted based on the presence of a comorbidity for the group, in the data in the plurality of provider claims.

22. The method of claim 20 wherein the predetermined weight factor corresponding to one of the groups, representing a medical episode, is adjusted based on the presence of a complication for the group in the medical claims.

23. The method of claim 20 wherein the predetermined weight factor corresponding to one of the groups, representing a medical episode, is adjusted based on the age of the member.

24. The method of claim 20 wherein the predetermined weight factor corresponding to one of the groups, representing a medical episode, is adjusted based on the gender of the member.

25. The method of claim 20 wherein the predetermined weight factor corresponding to one of the groups, representing a medical episode, is based on the average incremental cost associated with the group for a benchmark population.

26. The method of claim 20 wherein the predetermined weight factor corresponding to one of the groups, representing a medical episode, is based on the average incremental cost for the group during the base period.

placing the medical claims and the pharmacy claims into a plurality of medical episode groups for the member; and
computing a burden of illness by summing the products of each of the plurality of medical episode groups present for the member by a corresponding plurality of weight factors.

49. The method of claim 48 wherein the plurality of claims are collected over a time period of about twelve months.

50. The method of claim 48 wherein the pharmacy claims are in the format of National Data Codes (NDC).

51. The method of claim 48 wherein the pharmacy claims are placed into a plurality of therapeutic pharmacy classes.

52. The method of claim 51 wherein the pharmacy claims are placed into medical episode groups by placing the plurality of therapeutic pharmacy classes into the medical episode group to which the pharmacy class most likely relates.

53. The method of claim 52 wherein the pharmacy claims are placed into medical episode groups by using drug-disease matching.

54. The method of claim 48 wherein the plurality of weight factors used in computing the burden of illness correspond to a plurality of costs associated with each medical episode.

SECRET

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61. The method of claim 60 further comprising the step of calculating a relative risk for each of the plurality of members by dividing a member's future utilization score by an average future utilization score for the plurality of members of the health plan.

62. The method of claim 61 further comprising the step of ranking the plurality of members in order by the future utilization score, identifying a set of high-risk members by selecting those with the highest future utilization score, and providing the set of high-risk members to a care management process.

63. The method of claim 60 further comprising the step of providing the plurality of future utilization scores to an underwriting process for consideration in determining a risk-level of the plurality of members in a health plan.

64. The method of claim 48 wherein a second burden of illness score is computed by summing the products of each of the plurality of codes that corresponds to a selected therapeutic class and a corresponding plurality of weight factors, such that the second burden of illness score represents the selected therapeutic class.

65. The method of claim 64 further comprising the step of repeating the method for a plurality of members in a particular health plan such that a plurality of second burden of illness scores are calculated, one score corresponding to each member of the health plan.

66. The method of claim 65 further comprising the step of providing the plurality of second burden of illness scores to an NCQA accreditation process for use

in identifying a set of high-risk members in the selected class and providing systematic improvements in care to those individuals.

67. The method of claim 48 wherein the computing step includes computing a burden of illness by summing the corresponding plurality of weight factors for each of the plurality of medical episode groups, representing chronic medical conditions, present for the member.

68. The method of claim 48 wherein the computing step includes computing a first burden of illness by summing the corresponding plurality of weight factors for each of the plurality of medical episode groups, representing chronic medical conditions, present for the member, and computing a second burden of illness by summing the corresponding plurality of weight factors for each of the plurality of medical episode groups, representing acute medical conditions, present for the member.

69. A method of predicting future utilization of healthcare resources based on readily available information maintained for a member of a healthcare plan, the method comprising:

- collecting a data set from physician claims, hospital claims, and pharmacy claims submitted for the member over a prior time period;
- extracting a data subset from the data set, the data subset including a plurality of first codes indicating which medications were prescribed for the member during the time period and a plurality of second codes indicating which medical episodes the member was treated for during the time period; and

computing a burden of illness score by summing the products of each of the plurality of first codes and a corresponding plurality of weight factors and each of the plurality of second codes and a corresponding plurality of costs representing the average cost of the medical episode, the burden of illness representative of future healthcare utilization.

70. The method of claim 69 wherein the plurality of weight factors used in computing the burden of illness score are the average costs of the medical episode.

71. The method of claim 69 wherein the average cost of the medical episode is the average cost associated with the medical episode as indicated in a benchmark claim set.

72. The method of claim 69 wherein the data subset further includes a complications field representing any complications experienced by a plan member with respect to a given medical episode.

73. The method of claim 72 further including the step, after the computing a burden of illness score step, of calculating a future utilization score for the member based on the burden of illness, and the complications field, by increasing the burden of illness score for each complication indicated as present in the complications field.

74. The method of claim 69 further including the step of creating a comorbid variable by identifying a plurality of comorbid conditions that are present for the plan member by analyzing the plurality of second codes, indicating which medical episodes

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a second table for mapping disease codes to CCG classes,
a third table providing the average cost per member associated with each GC3 code, and
a fourth table providing the average cost per member associated with each CCG class,

the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) collecting a data set from the historical medical claims submitted for the member over a prior time period;
- (b) extracting NDC codes from pharmacy claims in the historical medical claims for the plan member, mapping the NDC codes to a plurality of GC3 codes by using the first table, and writing to a GC3 data file if the GC3 code is present for the plan member;
- (c) extracting a plurality of medical episode codes from physician and hospital claims in the historical medical claims for the plan member, mapping the plurality of medical episode codes to a plurality of CCG classes by using the second table, and writing to a CCG data file if the CCG is present for the plan member;
- (c) computing a first burden of illness score by using the third table to determine the average cost of each GC3 code present for the member and calculating a sum;
- (d) computing a second burden of illness score by summing the products of the CCG classes and the corresponding cost per member from the fourth table; and
- (e) computing a total burden of illness score by summing the first burden of illness score and the second burden of illness score.

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82. The system of claim 81 wherein the processor is configured to perform the identified steps for each of a plurality of members in the healthcare plan and to compute a plurality of numbers, each number corresponding to one plan member.

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